

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES---COVER () ET

Name of Property Trading Post School House 107-0000-120Location 4th Street
(street and number)Trading Post, Linn County
(city, town, or vicinity location)Lots 7 & 8, Block 4, Old Montgomery Town Site
(legal description)Linn
(county)Owner of Property Trading Post MuseumRoute 2, Box 145A
(street and number)Pleasanton, Kansas, Linn County
(city, town, county)

National Register status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic
Sites Board of Review N/Adate entered in National Register N/A

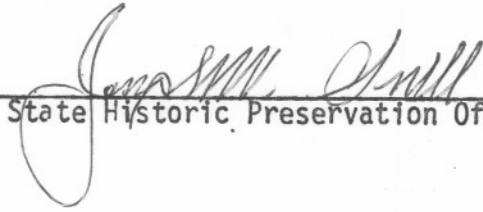
Description: The Trading Post School is a one-story, frame, gable roofed
building. The building has an eastern facade orientation, measuring twenty-eight
feet from east to west and forty-four feet from north to south. Two metal doors
pierce the gable facade, these replace the original wooden doors which had transoms.
Four, 4/4 double hung windows fenestrate each side elevation. The one bay interior
retains its open bay and stage. In 1974, the roof and floor were repaired, a new
foundation was put under it, it was painted inside and out, the windows were
rescreened, and the bell was moved from the roof to the front of the building.
It has been painted twice on the outside since 1974. There is a well or cystem
located beside the school house on the north, covered over with a huge stone.

Significance See attached pages.

Form prepared by Martha Hagedorn/Alice Widner (Sponsor) date July 2, 1987

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by the
Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on August 22, 1987

I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.



State Historic Preservation Officer

August 22, 1987

Date

The Trading Post School House is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its historical association with education in Linn County, Kansas. An article printed in the 22 October, 1886 Mound City Progress read: "Trading Post has built a new school house this summer, 28 by 44 feet with 14 foot ceilings, capable of seating one hundred scholars. School opened last week with seventy-three pupils taught by Mr. Hartley of Potosi Township."

The school property was deeded to the School District #41 by William R. McKeen, of the State of Indiana, Vigo County, May 16, 1883. Mr. McKeen was one of the members of the Montgomery Town Company; the town site included the lots where the first and second community schools were built. The first school was built in 1865 by the Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M., Blooming Grove. Andreas (1883) referred to both schools as the "Trading Post School."

The Trading Post School was one of the largest country schools in Linn County. Because of its central location in the county and the fact that it could accomodate many students, the 8th grade examinations were given at this location for a number of years. When this school house was first built, students came from a radius of about two miles. Later, as more schools were built, students came from a radius of about one mile. The earliest schools were built in areas of greatest concentration of population, or according to the motivation of the people who lived in the area.

Photos of other country schools in Linn County show the Trading Post to be a fairly common design, although some schools were built with a smaller room in the front of the building which served as an ante and cloak room, the wash basin and water bucket were also located there. The significance of the design is that it was functional. The one room required only one stove to heat it. In warmer temperatures, the windows on either side of the building allowed for cross ventilation.

As of this date, the names of the builders are unknown. The records of the school board cannot be found. The records of the Linn County Commissioners show no reference to the Trading Post School building.

The 1886-1890 Annual Reports for School District #41 do exist. The Annual School report of Trading Post School, District #41 of Linn County, for the year ending July 31, 1886, transmitted to the County Superintendent on the 12th of August, 1886 by W.H. Rees, Clerk of School District #41 provides the following information: Amount of money received from the County Treasurer from district taxes, \$304.56; amount received from State and County School funds, apportioned to the district, \$80.01; amount received from the sale of school bonds, \$800. Total receipts, \$1,184.57. Under expenditures, money paid out for the teachers wages and supervision, \$357.50; rent, repairs, fuel and incidentals, \$34.90; money paid out for sites, buildings and furniture, \$637.29. Total expenditures, \$1,029.69, leaving a balance of \$154.88. Total expenditures for the previous year were \$308.76, with nothing listed under money paid out for sites, buildings and furniture. The 1887 Annual Report shows \$236.87 expended for teachers salary, \$19.61 expended for rents, repairs and incidentals

buildings and furniture. The 1888 Annual Report revealed \$126.75 expended for sites, buildings and furniture. One hundred and six dollars and fifty cents was expended for this same category in 1889. The 1890 record keeper lumped the teachers salary and interest together, bringing the total to \$433.30. The teachers salary for 1889 had been \$284.60. Based on that figure, approximately \$158.70 was paid in interest in 1890 on the buildings and furnishings. No further expenditures were noted for sites, buildings and furnishings following 1890.

According to the Vandermaelen map, made in 1825, published in 1827 (an original copy of same in the special collections section of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library at Kansas University, Lawrence), the settlement of Trading Post is the oldest in the state. The nucleus of the settlement began with the trading post established by the Chouteaus and the French traders and their families that worked at the post. (See p. 389 of Louise Barry's The Beginning of the West). When the Military Road was constructed from Ft. Leavenworth to the Marais des Cygnes (Trading Post, Linn County), the road became the artery of travel which brought the new settlers into the area. This was also true when Kansas Territory was opened for settlement in 1854. A post office was established here in 1857 under the name of Blooming Grove. Growth in the settlement continued until about 1900 when the destruction of a mill dam prompted the owners of the mill and the general store to move to Amoret, Missouri.

Andreas states that "Trading Post contains at present three general stores, one drug store, two blacksmith shops, one agricultural implement dealer, and about 100 inhabitants." He also states there "was a mill, one of the finest in the state, two- and-one half stories high, and has the run of two buhrs, with a saw mill attached, run by steam in dry weather." In addition to these businesses mentioned, there was a city hall where dinner dances were held and a hotel, owned and operated by G.E. Phelps.

The Trading Post School was consolidated in 1956. It is now part of the Trading Post Museum complex which includes the 1857 Tubbs Cabin, the museum building, and the antique farm implement and tool building.